
Appendix H: List of Terms

The following provides a listing of commonly used telephone and computer terms. Many of these terms are used throughout the text without definition and are therefore offered here.

A

Access Code

The number dialed to connect the user with an outgoing trunk group. For example, '9' for local calls.

Account Code

An optional series of digits dialed used for internal corporate purposes of identifying a customer or client. These codes are used for client billing or tracking purposes.

AIOD/SMDR

Automatic Identification of Outward Dialing, or Station Message Detail Recording. Suggests a method of capturing complete details of outgoing calls, which may be further processed.

Area Code

A three digit number used to identify toll centers which are not in the Numbering Plan Area of the calling party.

Attendant

Console operator for the Meridian 1, often referred to as the switchboard operator.

Authorization Code

A series of digits dialed which identify the caller and cause the Meridian 1 to grant access to services which are otherwise restricted.

B

Band

A geographical area to which a subscriber is entitled to call. Band 1 entitles the subscriber to call fewer area codes than Band 5. Also referred to as Zone.

Baud

A measure of data transmission speed. It is expressed in bits per second which roughly represents the character speed multiplied by 10. For example 300 Baud is roughly 30 characters per second.

C

CBX

See Private Branch Exchange.

CCS

See Centi-Call Seconds.

CDR

Call Detail Recording. See Station Message Detail Recording.

Central Office

Refers to the telephone company office to which incoming and outgoing lines are connected for the subscriber.

Centi-Call Seconds

A unit used for the measurement of telephone traffic analysis, equivalent to one hundred seconds of telephone usage.

D

Database

A file or group of files which are interrelated, or serve a common purpose.

DDD

See Direct Distance Dialing.

Direct Distance Dialing

The service which allows dialing to areas outside the local area without the assistance of the operator.

DN

Directory Number. A user's telephone extension number.

Duration

The length of time taken for a call. The Meridian 1 records the duration as an estimate, because no signal is available to determine when the called party answers. Therefore, many short calls may be recorded for which no conversation took place. The limit for call duration is often adjustable.

E**EAS NPA**

See Extended Area Service.

Erlang

The telephone traffic's international unit of measurement. One erlang is a trunk occupied for an hour, this is equivalent to 36 CCS.

Exchange

An area in which there is a uniform set of charges for the telephone service. Often refers to a central office, and the first three digits dialed for a local call. Also referred to as NXX.

Extended Area Service

A local telephone calling area which is larger than normal.

F**Field**

One data item which is part of a group of data items making up a data record.

File

A group of data records.

Flat Rate Service

A uniform fee paid for services regardless of usage.

Foreign Exchange

A telephone number from a remote exchange working in a local exchange.
Mileage charges usually apply.

FX

See Foreign Exchange.

G

Grade of Service

The probability of getting a busy signal when trying to access a line.

I

Index

The process of merging the Call Detail File with the existing Call Database records.

L

LCR

See Least Cost Route.

Leased Lines

Refers to private lines between two switching centers.

Least Cost Route

Some Meridian 1's have the ability to determine the least expensive call route.

M

Measured Service

Measured service charges are dependent on the time of day, duration of the call, and the distance to the point dialed. Local calls in some cities are charged by measured unit, which is measured service.

Message Unit

A unit for charging local calls comprised of length of call, distance called and time of day.

N**Node**

Used to indicate a Meridian 1 in a network. Can also mean any endpoint in a network.

NPA

See Area Code.

NXX

See Exchange.

O**Other Common Carrier**

A private company which has filed tariffs with the FCC to provide long distance telephone service to subscribers.

P**PABX**

See Private Branch Exchange.

PBX

See Private Branch Exchange and Node.

Peg Count

A counting device within the Meridian 1 which indicates the number of calls placed, received, or blocked.

Private Branch Exchange

A privately owned telephone system which supplies the interface between business user and the public network. Also referred to as PABX (Automatic) and CBX (computerized).

Pro-rated Costing

When the cost per minute for calls (using a specific trunk or trunk group) is calculated automatically by the system based on the total fixed cost of the trunks and divided by the actual usage of those trunks.

S

SMDR

See Station Message Detail Recording.

Station Message Detail Recording

The ability of a Meridian 1 to output information to supply reports which include time of call, calling extension, duration of call, number dialed, trunk group, and date. Additional information may also be output.

T

Tariff

A document filed with the FCC which details the services, equipment (and costs) offered by a communications carrier. A 'tariffed' item has a fixed cost.

TELCO

A telephone company.

Tie Line

A dedicated circuit linking two Meridian 1 systems.

Trunk

A circuit used to connect two telephones. Trunks can be incoming, outgoing, two way, or interoffice. Trunks are also identified by the type of service they provide (i.e., DDD, FX).

Trunk Group

A group of trunks categorized by the type of service they provide. For example, the trunks for calling with DDD access are contained in a single trunk group.

Z**Zone**

See Band.